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LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The situation in the Bihać "safe area" has sharply deteriorated over this past weekend. According to United Nations spokesman Major Hervé Gourmelon, the Pale Serbs, late on 28 April, fired six shells at the Bihać "safe area" and five more at Cazin. Furthermore, according to United Nations spokesman Alexander Ivanko, another 70 Knin Serb troops yesterday crossed the internationally recognized border between the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia to join in these attacks against Bihać.

Also yesterday, according to Mr. Ivanko, the Knin Serb forces renewed their aerial attacks against Bihać, dropping two cluster bombs. One of the bombs detonated at the village of Velika Skočaj (5 kilometres south of Bihać), killing one civilian and wounding four others. Czech peace-keepers in Croatia reported seeing either two Galeb or two Orao aircraft flying into Croatian airspace minutes after the cluster bombs fell.

The Pale Serb forces have continued to target United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers in Sarajevo and to tighten their strangulation of the city, while on Friday, according to United Nations spokesman Lt.-Col. Gary Coward, Pale Serbs fired 35 shots at Netherlands peace-keepers on foot patrol.

In Maglaj, according to Lt.-Col. Coward, Pale Serbs fired what was described as a phosphorous projectile, in violation of the Geneva Convention. One house suffered extensive damage, while the lone occupant suffered critical burn injuries. It is only appropriate that we echo the sentiments of Mr. Ivanko, who stated in relation to this incident: "This attack once again proves just how much respect the Bosnian Serbs have for the laws of the international community, from which the same Bosnian Serbs seek recognition and legitimacy."

The events of this weekend, particularly the increased attacks against UNPROFOR and the continuing violations of the Geneva Convention, the international border, the Bihać "safe area" and the no-fly zone, should provide the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop contributors ample food for thought in their consideration of how to enhance implementation of the UNPROFOR mandate and how to protect their own men and women who have courageously tried to fulfil their duties on the ground.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative